The Library of Congress'

EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

converted from the original microfilm held by the
Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University

through the generous support of a grant from the

Council on Library and Information Resources

This document contains handwritten text that may be partially illegible due to age, penmanship, or deterioration of the medium. LLMC has scanned the material in the same format and page order in which it is maintained in the source document taken from the collection "Records of the States of the United States of America, a microfilm compilation."

1382

Message
of the
Executive
2d Decr 1845.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of Oregon

Fellow Citizens

Allow me to congratulate you on your return to this place, again to enter on the ~~duties~~ important duties assigned to you by your Constituents

By the latest dates we have from the United States we are informed that the affairs of Oregon State remain unsettled no arrangement having as yet been entered into between the United States and Great Britain fixing the boundary lines between the two Governments —

In my last message, I suggested several alterations in the Militia Law, and would again call your attention to this subject at present all is peace and quietness, but should any thing occur requiring the aide of the Militia, every thing should be ready for immediate and prompt action.

The Currency is another subject on which you will be called to act. That a legal tender should be provided for the payment of liabilities besides gold and silver, we are all well aware. — The precious metals are very scarce in this Country and by most persons not to be had. — What shall be the legal tender is an important question for you to decide. — If all the articles produced, raised and manufactured in this Country, are made legal tenders. — No

person

person will sell any thing he has to dispose of under there is a special contract drawn up designating how and in what manner the seller is to receive his pay, this will cause much inconvenience to both parties — Wheat in my opinion should be the only article used in this Country as a legal tender in addition to gold and silver, it is at present the staple article of our Country, can be procured by all the settlers in abundance, can be readily disposed of by the merchants and others, and is not a perishable article — The next question is where shall the article or articles made a legal tender be delivered? If the debtor is allowed the privilege of delivering wheat at any point on the navigable rivers, and thereby discharging his debt, it will throw all the trouble of getting it to market on the receiver, this should not be, the trouble should devolve on the one who by delivering his produce is relieved from his liability. — Oregon City at present is the business place and for the convenience of all parties would in my opinion be the best depot for the Country — Other articles and other places of deposit can be agreed upon between parties who are transacting business together — Our business is to frame for a man who being in debt to another, is prepared for delivery, and informed that nothing else will be received in payment — we must in some way provide to relieve him from this difficulty but in doing this we should be cautious not to throw the door too wide open, for in doing so we may break down all confidence and do more injury than good. —

for the boxes [illegible] articles and other
places of deposit [illegible] he agreed upon
between parties who are transacting business
together — Our business is to frown on for a man
who is being in debt to another, is prepared for
delivery, and informed that nothing else will be
received in payment — we must in some way
provide to relieve him from this difficulty
but in doing this we should be cautious
not to throw the door too wide open, for
in doing so we may break down our
confidence and do more injury than good. —

We are visited occasionally by vessels for
trade and other purposes, I think it would
be well to have an officer appointed to
reside at the mouth of the River whose duty
it should be on the arrival of any vessel
to board her and deliver the Captain
a copy of the laws relating to the sale
&c. of Ardent Spirits; many complaints
have come from the residents at the mouth of the River
stating that Spirituous liquors have been
distributed among the Indians from different
vessels, causing much excitement among the
Indians and in one case leading to a row
between two parties of them — it cannot
be expected that a stranger on his arrival
should be acquainted with the laws on this
subject, and he may deal out to Indians
and others enough to do a great deal of mis-
chief before he becomes acquainted with
it, unless some steps are taken by you
to inform him. — The Officer so appointed
could inform the proper authorities should
the Captain then persist in selling liquor
and the necessary steps to enforce the law
could then be taken. —

There should be a dealer of weights
and measures appointed, and no weights

persons living near the borders of such Districts do not really know in which District they reside, I would call your attention to this subject that you may examine into it and define the boundary lines. —

It will be necessary to decide upon and locate the seat of Government the present Session, I would recommend that a Committee be appointed by your Body at an early day, to take this matter into consideration. —

A large Emigration has this season crossed the Rocky Mountains, and the individuals who composed it are now in our midst and make one with us after passing through many scenes of difficulty and privation; there has been more suffering than usual among the Emigrants this present Season, perhaps in some measure owing to the largeness of the party which numbered over two thousand persons, but principally in an attempt made by some of them to shorten the way, they failed in their object and many of them perished in consequence of the difficulties they encountered, encumbered as they were with their families and Cattle in an untried route. — Something should be done by us to facilitate the arrival of Emigrants among us; nearly all the difficulties they encounter occur between Walla Walla and the Settlements and perhaps I may bring it still nearer and say between the Dalles and this place. If there can be a remedy provided for this it should

be safe

urgent and so [illegible] perished in consequence of the difficulties [illegible] encountered; encumbered as they were with their families and Cattle in an untried route. Something should be done by us to facilitate the arrival of Emigrants among us; namely all the difficulties they encounter occur between Walla Walla and the Settlements and perhaps I may bring it still nearer and say between the Dalles and this place. If there can be a remedy provided for this it should be done at once and an easy and safe conveyance provided for the Emigrant who may hereafter seek to migrate this land his home. — Two plans have suggested themselves to me, one is to employ one or more of the old settlers who profess to be acquainted with the pass, leading through the mountains from Fort Boise, or thereabouts to the upper settlements in the Willamette to take charge of a party, whose duty it shall be to examine the route, mark it out, and report to a Committee appointed by you. — All the particulars of the route should be carefully noted down, particularly the distance between localities where water can be procured, and the quality of the water, together with the quantity of grass land that may be on the route; whether there are any sandy deserts to cross that would be difficult for Cattle to pass over for want of water and proper food. — The other plan is to complete the road that has been commenced by Mr Barlow and others south of Mount Hood. — Either of these plans will require funds and I would recommend that a Committee be appointed by you whose duty it shall

during the recess of the Legislature, Wm H. Willson First Judge for the District of Champroy in place of E. E. Parish who refused to accept the appointment — Also Robert Moore Judge for the Tualaty District in place of H. Higgins resigned — There is a vacancy in the Blatsip District occasioned by the refusal of R. Hartsip to accept the Office of Judge for that District as there was no Court to be held in that District previous to the meeting of this Legislature I have left the Office to be filled by you. — I received a Letter from Jesse Applegate resigning his Seat in your body as Representative from the Yam Hill District — that District will therefore not be fully represented, as the notice was not received in time to order a new Election.

I am happy to say that the Emigrants who have come in this year appear well pleased with the regulations we have entered into for our Government and mutual protection, and express themselves as willing to be governed on the side of Law and order, we consider them a valuable acquisition to our little Colony, and find that we can already on people —

I cannot close without uniting with you in expressions of gratitude to that Being who has so graciously protected our Infant Colony — preserved from blood with this Scourge — their presence among us, and from internal commotions, and enjoying all the blessings that health and peace give, that

Law and are [illegible] to consider them as invaluable acquisitions to our little Colony, and find that we are already one people —

I cannot close without uniting with you in expressions of gratitude to that Being who has so graciously protected our infant Colony — preserved from blood with the Savages their neighbours, and from internal commotions, and

enjoying all the blessings that health can bestow, we may truly say that we are a favoured people, and I trust that we may continue to merit the Divine favour by acknowledging our dependance on him and endeavouring to keep his Law in view while making Laws for our Government.

Geo. Abernethy

Oregon City 2 December 1845